

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 14-21 and 23-85 were pending. Claims 1, 12, 15-20 and 85 were finally rejected in the April 5, 2004 Office Action and claims 14 and 73-84 were allowed. Claims 2-11, 21 and 23-72 had been withdrawn from consideration pursuant to a species election under 35 U.S.C. §121.


Claims 1, 13, 22, 30, 46, 47, 53-65 and 69-71 have now been Canceled. Claims 2, 3, 6, 12, 21, 28, 44, 45, 48, 49, 50, 51, 66 and 67 are amended in this response. Claims 2, 3, 6, 12, 21, 18 and 44 were amended to depend from claim 14. The remaining amendments are made to conform the language of those dependent claims to that of the allowed independent claim and any intervening claims from which they depend. In the October 2, 2001 Office Action, the Examiner wrote that upon allowance of a generic claim, applicants would be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form, or which otherwise include all of the limitations of an allowed generic claim. The previously withdrawn apparatus claims have been amended to depend from an allowed generic claim so are designated as withdrawn – currently amended. Applicants request consideration of the previously withdrawn apparatus claims that now depend from an allowed claim. The previously withdrawn method claims, 32-43, have not been amended, and are designated only as withdrawn. Consideration of the method claims at this time is requested in view of the allowance of generic apparatus claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made every effort to be fully responsive to the Office Action. Amendments have been made to comply with the Examiner's indications of allowance or to place the claims in better form for appeal. No new matter and no new issues are introduced by the amendments. Entry of the amendments and reconsideration of claims 2-12, 15-21, 23-29, 31, 44-45, 48-68 and 72 is requested. Claims 2-12, 14-21, 23-29, 31, 44-68 and 72-85 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Allowance of all of the pending claims is requested.

If the undersigned can be of assistance to the Examiner in advancing the application to allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


Christine R. Ethridge
Registration No. 30,557

Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP
Henry W. Oliver Building
535 Smithfield Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-2312

Telephone: (412) 355-8619
Facsimile: (412) 355-6501